

REMARKS

With the above amendments, claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-22 remain in the application and stand finally rejected.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in light of the following reasons.

Substance of Examiner Interview

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the interview conducted on July 8, 2008. Claim 1 was discussed in light of Kajimoto. The undersigned explained to the Examiner that in contrast to Kajimoto's notches 40 and 41, cited in the final office action, claim 1 explicitly recites perforations. The Examiner informed the undersigned that notches read on perforations. No agreement was reached.

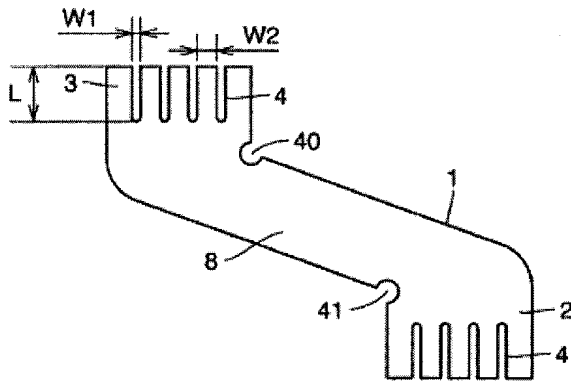
Request For Withdrawal of Final Rejection

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 16-18, and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0059952 by Shimada ("Shimada") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,468,652 to Gee ("Gee") and U.S. Patent No. 6,315,575 to Kajimoto ("Kajimoto").

Claims 4, 13, 14, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the above combination and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,321,418 to Dran et al.

The final office action is based on the premise that Kajimoto notches 40 and 41 are perforations. Kajimoto FIG. 2, which shows the notches 40 and 41, is reproduced below for ease of discussion.

FIG. 2



As shown in Kajimoto FIG. 2, the notches 40 and 41 are indeed notches in that they are cuts on the edge of the interconnector 1. Perforations, on the other hand, necessarily require holes. That is, the notches 40 and 41 cannot be the recited perforations of claims 1, 11, 17, and 20.

Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the finality of the last office action.

Claim Amendments

By definition, perforations must be within the perforated material. However, to expedite prosecution, claims 1, 11, 17, and 20 have been amended to recite that the perforations are within the interconnect strip.

It is clear that Kajimoto notches 40 and 41 are not within the interconnector 1. Claims 1, 11, 17, and 20, and their dependent claims, are thus patentable over the cited combination.

Conclusion

For at least the above reasons, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-22. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (408)436-2112 for any questions.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-2427.

Respectfully submitted,
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